REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge that the previous rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 USC §103, based, *inter alia*, on Popovic and Dent et al. has been withdrawn, and that a new non-final Office Action has been issued. In the latter Office Action, claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Wallace et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,590,881) in view of Song (U.S. Patent No. 6,721,299). In addition, claim 11 has been rejected as unpatentable over the same two references, and further in view of Wang (U.S. Patent No. 6,606,309), while claim 12 has been rejected as unpatentable over Cedervall et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,134,228) in view of Wallace et al. and Song. However, for the reasons set forth hereinafter, applicants respectfully submit that all claims of record in this application distinguish over the cited references, whether considered separately or in combination.

The present invention is directed to an improved method for synchronizing base stations within a telecommunications system which includes a plurality of "cells," each of which has a fixed base station situated therein, together with at least one mobile station. At least one channel is provided for use in the telecommunications cell, and according to the invention, that channel is used for transmission of a synchronization signal from a first base station to the other base stations within the telecommunications system (those which are within transmission range). Thereafter, for each base station, the time difference

between corresponding time slots transmitted by the base station and received from respective other base stations are calculated. Finally, the synchronization signals of the respective base stations are adjusted according to the calculated time differences.

According to a feature of the invention, the base station in question transmits the synchronization signal on a channel which is conventionally used for reverse signals - - that is, a random access channel or RACH. Thus, claim 1 of the present application further recites that the at least one channel is a random access channel transmitted at a frequency within a band of frequencies that is provided for communications with a mobile station. (See claim 1, the last paragraph.) In addition, claim 12 recites a step of utilizing a random access channel to schedule synchronization measurements for each of the base stations. These features of the invention are neither taught nor suggested by the cited references.

The Office Actions states that the Wallace et al. reference discloses transmitting synchronization signals on a forward link channel. Song, on the other hand, describes including pilot symbols in the RACH. From this, the Office Action concludes that it would be an obvious step to change from the technique in which a base station transmits forward signals to a system in which a base station transmits on a channel which is conventionally used for reverse signals (i.e., via the RACH). Applicants respectfully submit, however, that consideration

of the details set forth in Song shows that such a combination would not be obvious, and would not replicate the present invention.

That is, the Song patent states that the RACH is an uplink (or reverse) channel that is used to carry information from the user equipment (UE). Such a use of a random access channel to carry information from the UE is, of course, conventional. Nothing contained in either Song or Wallace et al., however, or indicated in the Office Action itself, teaches or suggests a reason why a person skilled in the art would be motivated to act contrary to conventional usage, given that the RACH is described as being from the UE, while the claims require the synchronization signal to come from the base station. In addition, such a combination of the disclosure of Song and the disclosure of Wallace et al. would not lead to the present invention because the claims of the present invention require that a synchronization signal is transmitted from the base station, and that the channel in which is used for this purpose is a random access channel. The combination of Wallace et al. and Song would not yield such a system. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application distinguish over the cited references.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #038819.50901US).

Respectfully submitted,

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